THE TRAGEDIE

ALCESTE and EL1ZA.

As it is found in Italian, in

Collected, and translated into English, in the same verse, and number,

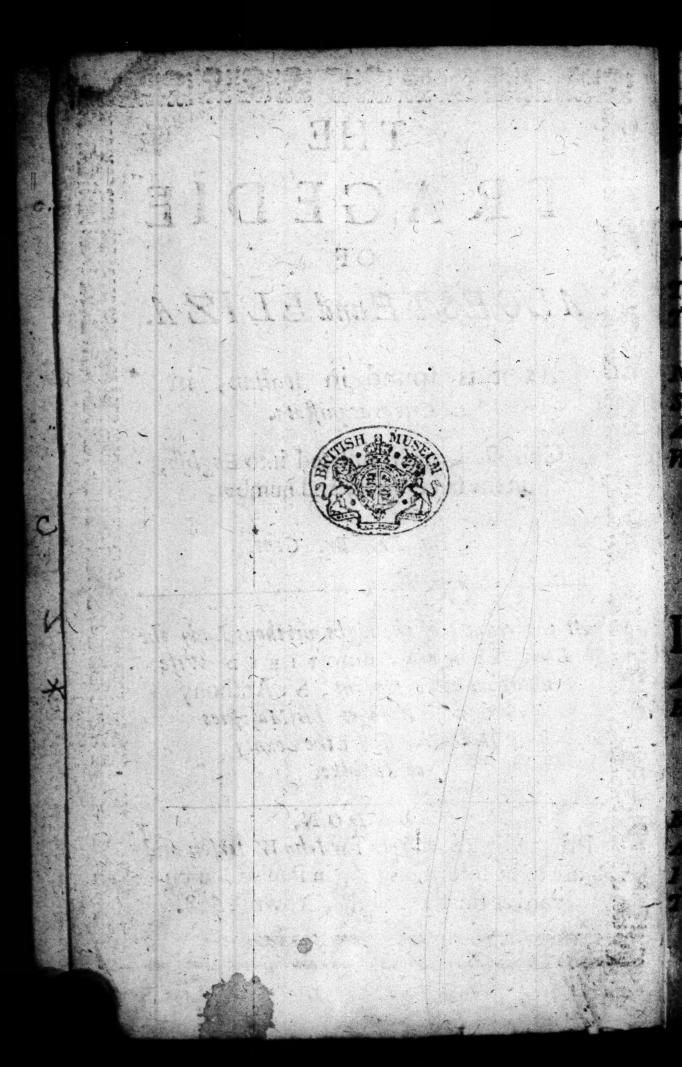
By Fr. Br. Gent,

At the request of the right vertuous Lady, the
Lady Ann BWing FIBLD Wife
unto that noble Knight, Six Anthony
Wingfield Baronet his Majesties
High Shiriffe for the Lounty
of Suffolke.

LONDON,

Printed by Th. Harper for Iohn Waterson, and are to be fold at his shop in Pauls Church-yard at the signe of the Crown, 1638.

क्ष्मिन के प्रतिकृति के प्रतिक का ति के प्रतिक के स्वतिक क्षमिन के प्रतिक के प्रतिक का ति के प्रतिक क



My Booke.

Hinkst thou to scape, when no booke scapes, that passes
The Presse, but it is prest to under-go
the censure, both of wise men and of asses,
but can, and cannot judge of what we do:

No, looke not for't: an Eagles eye will spy
spots in the Sunne, no other bird can see;
Indyes the Owle that hath the weakest eye
Will see by owle light, twice as much as she.
Why then prevent them both, and first confesse
Thy fault, and mine that sent thee to the Presse.

Reader.

F I were by thee when thou read it my Booke,

I should observe thy curtesie and skill.

Indhappily conjecture by thy looke

ow I might mend some faults that scap't my quill:

For I must tell thee, I was never yet

Asham'd to borrow of a better wit.

t if I should perceive thee winke or scowle t any trifle, with thy pur-blindeyes, should accompt thee but an idle Owle, but (so unlike an Eagle) catchest slies.

For though my stock of wit be nere so little, I scorn to have it said, I rob the Spittle.

My Booke. gual established established and the termination of Contract of the streets of and the the destruction of a decision resi it out any survivate of the constant to present the the second of the second To a first the contract of in any in any the term of the a in his director which is to be a has been a construction to TELESTICAL CARREST And the second s



For the better understanding of this History, you may observe,

That

ofdras (or as some call him Cofroes) King of Persia, at such time as he tooke Ierusalem from the Christians, amongst other spoyles carried away the remainder of the Crosse which

Constantine had lest. And it was foureteene yeares before the Emperour Heraclius could re-

cover it out of the Pagans hands.

The occasion, progresse, and issue of this warre, is the Argument of this Booke, intituled La Croce racquistata: out which this tale is taken. Wherin the Author had a large sield: for all the great Princes and Captaines of the world were in these two Armies:

Alcefte

Acesteand Eliza were two of them, which verein the Christian armie. VVhole story onI have pickt out, as I find it in severall places of he Italian Booke.

Every abruption in my Author is observed with a digression of mine owne, whereby you are directed to the very lease and line. That they that list to compare the translation with the original may see, that I have observed not only the sence, but the length and number of his staves.

Prince Theodor (who begins this Natration) was the Emperour Heraclius Nephew, and appointed by him to entertaine the Popes Nuncio, Artemio, being sent unto the armie from his Holinesse, to appeale certaine differences happened amongst the Princes there.

The rest is easie to be understood.

VV herein if there be more Poeticall liberty then the precise rule of truth will warrant; or lesse regard to avoyd superstition then there ought to be amongst us; let the fault bee his, that I have too precisely followed.

The

The Tragedie of Alceste and Eliza.



When Theodor had made a short relation To Artemio of the present jarre, And nam'd each Knight, their nature & their nation That serv'd Heraclio in that boly warre, Against the Persian King, and come thus farre, He paus' da while; and then began againe: Asyou may see, if you'l but take the paine.



LIB. 3. Pag. 49.

28.



h

óf

d

u

|-

C

),

d

n

0

C

Ehold (quoth he) that hindmost couple there, Whose colours & devise are white and red; A paire for gentlenesse without compare, Whom love hath linked in a lawfull bed.

Alceste and Elizathosetwo are With harts conjoyn'd, and soules unsevered. She (thankes to Love) for him's growne bold in war And he in peace makes amorous warre with her.

Wounde

29.

Wounded with griefe and love, the maide was brought well neere the period of her loathed life:
hough now for patience and affection thought,
he only patterne of a constant wife.
Ler Lovers absence, such dispaire had wrought,
hat full foure yeares together, in that strife,
he kept the woods, and hard adventures sought:
Her love unknowne, her cloathing rude and nought.

30.

She is the only Woman in the Camp,
And her th' Emperor suffers though a Woman:
But such her vertues are that they instamp
Her valour equals to the manliest Man.
Her arrowes sly as if with soves bright lamp
They were directed to the marke: she can
With shaftes from out her golden quiver there
Till beafts that run, and sowles that sly i'th aire.

31.

Her Bow doth promise, we the promise take, of greater matters, from her semall hand, and I the sad and true report could make fall her grieses, and let you understand ow she became an Archer, for whose sake; unhat I seare your patience to offend.

There he paul'd; as if he stood in doubt hould but trouble him, to tell it out.

33.

Th' Ambassadour, perceiving what desire,
Prince Theodoro had to tell his tale
Of those two Lovers, that in endlesse sire
Of griefe and Love were sacrific'd for all,
Turning about to heare a case so dire,
(Though accidents of Love be full of gaule)
Commands himselfe (as courtesse doth still
In such light things) to please an others will.

33.

And answer'd thus, I shall be glad to heare,
Since happily you are not loath to tell,
The sharp events of honest Lovers, where
In length of time, they end their troubles well.
This said, he held his peace. When Theodor,
With voyce distinct and cleere, of what befell
(Vntold before) a fresh report did make,
And turning to the Nuncio thus he spake.

34.

In the Laconic sea Citera lies,
As faire an Iland as the Sun can see
In this our Horizon, and one likewise
Surrounded with the sea as pleasantly;
There were these Lovers borne, and that implies
Their tender age was spent as merrily,
In laughing, sporting, playing still together,
When neither place nor age denide it either.

35.

There did a Love that knew not what Love was
Knit on their hearts a knot they never knew;
They'd figh sometimes, but when they figh'd, alas
They understood not whence that fighing grew:
For as for feare or hope, no cause there was;
(Though hope and feare increast their love, tis true)
Thus, filly things, some space before they know
What tis to Love, doe perfect Lovers grow.

36.

Their age increas'd, and their desires as fast,
Which afterwards they often quench and light
With, marriage bed; till envious Fortune cast
To spoyle their pleasures, and to part them quite.
Cos dra girt Garthagen about the waste,
And we were summon'd to defend our right.
The Army marcheth, then to sea it hailes,
And covers all the Ocean with their sailes.

37.

Thus hard necessity (which choice denies)
Compell'd the Knight to leave his dearest wise;
His leave he tooke with water in his eyes
And look'd as pale as if he left his life.
At last they part, and he the faile unties,
Which Boreas sighes and his do drive astrife.

Way he goes, but goes without a heart,
for taire Eliza will not let that part.

38.

His eyes full-fraught with teares, his brest with woes,
This poore distressed husband onward drives,
And sadly through the watry Forrest rowes,
To succour Carthage, or to spend their lives.
But t'was too late, the towne was lost, and those
Which tooke it gone, before his sleete arrives.
He staid awhile to put his shippes in frame
And then return'd the sleete from whence it came.

39.

Now in this interim there was a Knight,
Newly arrived on the Affric side,
To lend poore Carthage (as he thought he might)
Some little help in this their greatest need:
Who after supper (when mens hearts are light,
And take least heed of what they say) espide
Th'enamoured Alcest, stand with down-cast eyes,
Observ'd him sad, and doth the cause surmise.

40.

Fy Sir (quoth he) banish this melancholy,
Which clouds your brow, and corasives your heart:
Thought (you do know) is but a wise-mans folly,
And does nought else but duplisse our smart.
If it be Love possesseth you so wholy,
(As many youths it doth that lacke the art)
Why pluck it up betimes; there's no such ill,
As to be subject to a womans will.

The Tragedie of

41.

Nor can there be a woman that's not base,
That wretched sex, hath neither love nor faith,
It is not valour, wit, or comely grace,
But gold, tis only gold their fancy swa'ith.
I' have tride a thousand, yet not one whose case
Diffreth in this: I lothe them all he saith.
And reckons up a number so imbrac't
By him for money; and describes the last.

42.

Vpon Citera shorethat doth behold
Assopoes back, a stately house is set
Built partly on a rocke, as if it would
Behold it selfe i'th sea that closeth it.
There had I one, (but as the rest for gold)
Eliza call'd, a rare and dainety bit
And it ones lookes could have perswaded me
That any had beene honest, t'had beene she.

43.

Some what retir'd, and in blackegarments clad,
A nigard of her haire, and modest looke
Demure in gate, and rather slow then sad,
Reserv'dly wise in all she undertooke,
A down-cast eye, from whence her beauties had
Fixt at her foote the rayes they from it tooke,
Seem'd thus to say. I looke not, view not me,
For I regard no others misery.

44.

But as loves wealth the more it is conceal'd.

Appeares the more, and moves the more defire,
And love burnes hottest till it be reveal'd,

(Deniall serving but to blow the fire)
So I Eliza much the fairer held,
In those meane clothes, and long'd the more to try her
But so her Nurse to ease my love had wrought
That to conclusion now the match was brought.

45.

This woman leane with age, and meager growne,
Faines religion, counterfeits devotion,
Goes muttering on her beades in such a tone,
As you would thinke her matines never done:
You often see her kisse the holy ground,
And knocke her hollow breast untill it sound,
Shee's mistris of deceit, and with her art
Can turne the key of every others heart.

46.

This aged Beldame filently by night,
Convei'd me to the place mine Idoll lay:
An unfrequented paffage out of fight,
She privately had open'd towards the sea.
Her chamber and her bed this wandring Knight
Describ'd at full, and all he could bewray;
Lavish of speech at such a lavish table,
Where wine of Creet had made his tongue more able.
Where

The Tragedit of

47.

Whereby the husband being made too fure
Of that afront which he had done him, cri'd,
How dar'st thou (villaine) think thy selfe secure
Whilst thus thou gloriest in so foule a deed!
Shall I my wives shame and mine owne endure!
Heaven sent thee hither to receive thy meede:
At my hand tak't; when drawing out his sword,
He furiously assail'd him at the bord.

48.

Th' Adulterer confounded and surpris'd,
Had scarce his drunken hand upon his sword,
When ill defended, as he was advis'd,
He wounded fell, to dy the earth in blood.
His fortune with his folly had devis'd,
To end his supper at a sadder bord.
Amongst the pots and platters on the ground
His carcasse lay: his soule in wine was drownd.

49.

With one small Pinnace, leaving all the rest;
The South-wind swel'd his sailes, and he made way
Through deepest waves, with deeper thoughts oppress.
A deadly palenesse on his face there lay,
A sadnesse worse then death possess he brake
Out into sighes, but nerea word he spake.

Alcelle and Eliza.

500

The fourth day that this desperate lover quit
The Affrick shore, he might discerne in fight,
(The flatnesse of the sea permitting it)
Faire Citerea's Isle, though nothing nye it:
He alter'd then his course; at last he litt.
Upon the coast of Malles, when twas night.
From thence a servant to his wife he sent.
With this commission, and to this intent.

51.

Goe thou (quoth he) and get my wife abourd,
And when thou halt her far enough from shore,
That no man can perceive, or heare a word,
Then murther her: I need not tell thee more,
Which if thy fword refuse, why let thy sword
Be spar'd from bloud, so thou wilt cast her o're.
Be sure to make her sure, and lend no eare
To any scuce she makes, or any praier.

52.

way he goes, resolv'd to do the deed;
Comes to Civera, in Alcestes name
alutes Eliza, who was soon agreed
o meet her husband, since he wild the same,
and (lest his tale might some suspicion breed)
e told her where he lest him, whence he came;
and that he should be fore't to say a while
efore he could return into the sile.

ft.

be

B

530

The loving wife that knew the messenger
Easly believed the message which he brought.
And joyfull of the newes, suspects no danger
But sets her heedlesse feete into his boat.
The Rascall leaves the shore, and in his anger,
When time and place was sitting (as he thought)
More raging then the sea whereon he went,
Flyes on the Woman, gives his sury vent.

\$4.

And on her gentle face (that might appeale. The Lions fury, and the Adders sting, And was of force to mollisse with ease The hardest Oakes that in the deserts spring) When he had sixt his sterne and staring eyes, In act as desperate as spight could bring, He wrap't his left-hand in her tender haire, And with his right he did his sword up-reare.

55.

And with abusive speech (disjoyntly plac't With horror of the fact) dispatch saith he, Eliza thou must dy, this is thy last, Thy time is come, thou mai'st no longer be: Wilt thou have sword or sea? she wretch in hast (Put to so hard a choyce as here you see) With lips as pale as earth, and trembling breath, Requir'd at least the reason of her death.

56.

The reason is (quoth he) to tell thee plaine
Thy husbands will, for he commands it so;
This said, he tug d her by the haire againe
And mov'd his sword to give the fatall blow.
At that, (like Phœbus in a showre of raine)
Her beauties thorough her watry glasses show
Come on (quoth she) obey my Lord, and thine,
If such his pleasure be, even such is mine.

57-

For him, not for my selfe, my life was sweet,

For him I loth it that doth it despise,

Love made it his at first, and his is yet,

On him it rests, for him it lives and dies.

And though my death with some displeasure meet,

Because it parts me from the thing I prize,

Yet his contentmet is so deare to mee,

T'will sweeten every torment thou shalt see.

58.

But, one thing rests, which I must intreate,
As the last service thou canst do for me,
That when thou seest my Lord, thou wilt repeate
These words, which dying hardly uttered be,
,, Thy late Eliz whose faithfull love as yet
,, Hath never wrong d thee, dies as true to thee.
And here she turn d to God; then did expose
Her saire brest, naked to his cruell blowes.

B 2

59.

But he that was before so arm'd with rage,
That neither teares nor praiers had prevail'd,
The greatnes of ones hart, ones constant cariage
Prisoner and bound (who would beleeve it) quail'd,
His sword was up to lop her tender age,
Put pity had so charm'd him, that it fail'd,
Vnable now to strike or fetch a blow,
His arme grew weake, his hand his sword let go.

60.

Which made him leave the worke, and turning to her More mildly then before, these words he spake. I would thy death were not within my power, Or that I could remit it for thy sake; But thou art wise unto that Lord of our, I but his servant that this undertake: Yet if thou wilt accept of what I'le give, Instead of death, thou shalt in exile live.

61.

If thou wilt promise on thy faith before,
To get thee gon, and ner's returne againe,
I'le set thee yonder on that rusticke shore,
And say I drown'd thee in the Ocean:
From whence thou mai'st by travels more and more
Absent thy selfe, and these our coasts refraine.
But sware thou wilt not stay in any place,
Where newes may come of his Eliza's case.

She

62.

She answer'd, Friend dispatch, strike through this brest. Why would'st thou have me live, since I forgo. That cruell one? who (such) yet I protest. Is my Lives Life. Let fall that deadly blow, Let fall that hand, that hand to death addrest, Let me not live against his will to go: For such a life would be a death to me, And any death for him will pleasing be.

63.

Thus she intreats for that life parting blow,
To shew the duty of a loving wife.
But now hee'l not consent it should be so
That heretofore would have deni'd her life.
A strange dissention here is seene to grow,
Betwixt these parties, and a noble strife,
An innocent young Woman begs to dy,
Which he that was to kill her, doth deny.

64.

But after that Eliza had fomewhile
Begg'd death, of that her murtherer in vaine,
And by intreating in an unuis'd file,
Had shew'd a noble courage to remaine,
(In hope her innocence to reconcile,
At better leasure, if she were not slaine)
Commands her felfe at last to be content,
And to a loathed life doth give consent.

B 3

And

56.

And both her cheekes bedewed with her teares,
(Like untouch't Roles in a mornings frost)
To lead her bani'sht feete to him she sweares
Amongst strange people, in a foraine cost.
Her vaile she leaves, and cuts her golden haires,
And all that may disguise her beauties most.
She sadly throwes her purple robe aside,
And in a service habit doth abide.

66.

He lends it her: and on a defart place
He leaves her weeping; steales himselfe from thence.
She or'e the mountaines all-alone doth trace,
Tasts little soode but what her sorrow vents.
Studies to seeme uncivile rude and bale,
As if she had beene bred to give offence,
Like those rude people that she met with ever;
Yet doth her study and her art deceive her.

67.

In vaine she strives to hide the gentle aire
Of her aspect, her fashion, or her gate;
Her courtlike carriage will not rude appeare,
Nor yet her eyes their lovelines abate.
Her faire hands shew too white, her skin too faire
In all she does they marke too great a state.
As when a cloud doth over-spread the sunne,
With her blacke curtaines, yet the dai's not done.

Alcene and Eliza

68:17

Now when sh'had wandred up and down to, moones A forlorne stranger, in an unknown land:
And with her scalding lights, and inward groanes Had made the woods resound that were at hand;
A curteous Shepheard that had heard her mones Receiv'd her home imo his houshold band:
Where(taken for a Boy) shee's set to keepe Sometimes great cattell, sometimes stockes of sheepe.

69.

And with a sheephooke, and a Shepheards accents, (Accents too sweet for such a meane protession) She drives her slockes unto the hills ascents, To feede or fold them, as she sees dicretion. The woods attentive to her sad laments, She makes compassionate, beyond expression. The rivers and the groves by turnes condole. The lamentations of her vexed soule.

70.

Where standing sadly (on a time) she spi'd
A mountaine goat, come, running towards the wood
She kept her close, and striking at his side
The steele devour'd his life, and suckt his blood.
His one horne to the other then she tide,
And made thereof a Bow both strong an I good.
Wherewith she quickly such an Archer grew,
As Parthia or Persa never knew.

B 4

With

71.80

With this she scour'd the woods, and when t'was night Came richly laden home wards with her pray.

And where the thickest trees most hindred light,
There all alone she spent the weary day,
Breathing those passions out, which still invite
The usuall tribute, which her eyes did pay.

And after all her weeping, all her paine,
The aire in sighs, the grasse in teares remaine.

72.00

Long the continued in this bitter plight,
Which had the bloffome of her beauty blafted;
Her glad fad Aprill would afford no light,
For in obscurity it ever lasted.
Vntill by chance, a certaine ventrous Knight
Most deadly wounded, towards this Cottage hasted,
Where shortly after he his life for looke,
Whose horse and armour this Virago tooke.

73.

With these she ment, and presently assaid
To prove her selfe a Knight amongst the best.
She thought her death was long-enogh delai'd,
Or that her sorrow liv'd too long (at least)
And though the hard, and sturdy armour lai'd
Too sore a butthen, on her tender brest,
Yet still she bore it: and I know not whether
The steele grew softer, or her body harder.

Meane

74

he

baA

Meane while, the servant (unto whose great care
Her death was left) return'd unto his Lord,
And told him, how he drag'd her by the haire,
And having kil'd her, cast her overbord.
Well, then (quoth he) take thou that money there,
But get thee gone; he now so much abhord
The act, and fear'd the name of homicide,
He could no more the actors sight abide.

75.

Away he goes. But now more doubts then one The credulous husband hammers in his heart. He doubts th'occasion may be small or none; And now repents him of so rash a part. Comes to Citera, takes the Nurse alone, (He siercely lookes, she as she would depart) At last he questions her (too late growne wite) With sword in hand, and fire in both his eyes.

76.

Come-on thou Quean (quoth he) For I will know
The truth of all, who was it that thou brought's
To wrong my wife and me e dispatch and show
(For thou art she that my dishonor wrought's)
The aged devill at such a fearefull blow
Fell trembling downe, her heart was wholy lost.
And craving pardon, told in what degree
Her selfe was guilty, but Eliza free.

O'recome

77.

O'recome my Lord with gold, I must confesse
I heark'ned to a loving sooles desire,
Who came well stor'd with lust, with witthe lesse,
To crave my helpe, his heart was so on sire
But I that knew t'was time but lost to presse
Your chast Eliza, never once would try her.
My wits I tri'd, and by another moine
Contented him with fraud, my selfe with coine.

78.

The foolish Lover in Eliza's roome:
For Terea's age and stature would deceive
(They are so like your wives) a wiser groome.
The asse or'e-joy'd with what he did conceive
I brought unto your very marriage roome.
For I had made your ignorant wife, by art,
Remove that night into an other part.

79.

I left the gallant there awhile; who stai'd
Full of desire, expecting my returne:
At last I came, and brought with me the maid,
Wrapt in my Mistresse gowne, to sit his turne.
A light (scarce giving light in that darke shade)
I suddainly put-out, it should not burne:
And in your chamber, and your very bed
They tooke their pleasures, and their pleasures sed.

And

80.

And I, before the light from-out the east Should shew it selfe, or what he might would hide, Importun'd him to leave his restlesse rest. And steale away before he were discride. And he whose hot desire (as then he gest Was satisfi'd at full) went out unspide. And here the Beldam staid. A leeste stood Vnmov'd at first: then rage enslam'd his blood.

81.

Thou damned wretch (quoth he) through thee have I Then flaine my loving, chaft, and loyall wife, (Or rather life) and that too wrongfully. Thy fault shall never passe without thy life. He was about to strike, when suddainly The basenes of the object staid his knife. He runnes from her to Terea to know Whether the quean had told him true or no.

82.

He finds it so: and t'was no easie wound
That arrow made, for through his heart it wrought.
An extreame sorrow had his wits so drown'd
That to revenge it on himselfe he thought;
And sure his soule had quickly been unbound
To follow hers, (a naked ghost now brought)
But that his Friends the resolution spy,
And teach him soone a better way to dy.

83.

Perswaded by them not to make his death
The dire occasion of his endlesse woe,
Hee's come to Asia, where he undergoeth
The greatest dangers that a man can know:
But how soe re he seeks to spend his breath,
Ventring a thousand waies to end it so,
His fate reserves him for a better story,
And where he seeks his death, he findes his glory.

84.

When this distressed Knight had full source yeares. Continued constant in this mournefull plight, (Acknowledging his error with his teares, And never finding comfort or delight.)

A wandring Knight before the trench appears, And calls Alceste to a single fight.

His name unknown, he still maintain d the place, And kept his bever down to hide his head.

85.

The strange desiance which this stranger made, Came quickly to Alcestes eares by many; He arm'd with speed, and on his Courser staid. The opening of the gate, then took the vally. His visage and his carriage well bewraid. He was of courage to have answered any. He takes his Lance, and sits himselfe to run, But sirst unto the Knight he thus begun.

86.

I am the same Alceste, you have sought
To fight withall, yet give no reason why;
Thought that be reasonlesse, me thinks you might
Reveale your name, before we battaile try.
Thou see'st I am a Knight, if that be ought,
Take that (quoth he) and make no more reply.
I beare thee no ill will, yet am this day
The greatest foe thou hast, 'tis all I le say.

87.

And here their horses spur'd, together went,
The stranger stoop't his lance, as well twas seen
He did it warily: Alceste lent
A blow upon his shield, it split againe:
And yet it fell farre better than he ment,
For now his Lance (more kinde than he had been)
Flying in pieces, made no other wound,
But lest the adverse party on the ground.

88.

Alceste lites, and runs unto his foe,
To leaze his armes, when taking off his crest,
As frighted starts, to see Eliza so:
The face was hers he knew, that he lov'd best,
His gentle wife he thought dead long agoe, so
Onely maintain'd alive within his brest.
He stands amaz'd, and unremov'd, like one
Depriv'd of life, sence, speech, and motion.

The Tragedie of

89.

And there had di'ed (his wandring soule for sooke And sted for suddain joy so from his heart) But that it was deprest, with griefe he tooke For his past error, in his nobler part. From whence in sloods of death, his life and looke Now went, now came; yet life would not depart. Sorrow or joy might each have wrought their will, But both conjoyn'd, could not Alceste kill.

90.

His living wife lookt on him stedfastly,
And seeing him forbeare to use his brand,
She sent a silent speech from out her eye,
Which he that loves, or none, can understand.
Cruell (quoth she) thine anger satisfie;
Who rescues me; who saves me from thy hand;
Eliza's come into thy hands, that she
Obeying them, may only dy by thee.

91.

I know too well Alceste, tis thy will
(Not to offend thee with the name of husband)
I should not be thy wife, or living still:
Eliza will not live, less she offend,
I meane to dy; but ô do thou distill
The blood out of these vaines, and ther's an end.
Why staist thou? do it : glut thy see at last;
Only believe, I never was unchast.

92.

If through thy servants pitty unto me,
Some foure yeares since, I was not slaughtered,
Repent it not: for though I living be,
The shady woods have held me buried.
Now to be kild againe I come to thee,
That so our wills may not be severed:
For I by thee a double death shall dy,
And thou by that a double pleasure try.

93.

Alceste at these speeches fell a shaking,
Like to a reed that on the sea-banke growes
A flood of teares his forrows overtaking
Showes his repentance, and from whence it flowes.
Or ecome with kindnesse, and his soule mistaking
Hee's often dumb, and by his silence showes
All that his tongue locks up, and more reveales
One looke of his, then want of speech conceales.

94.

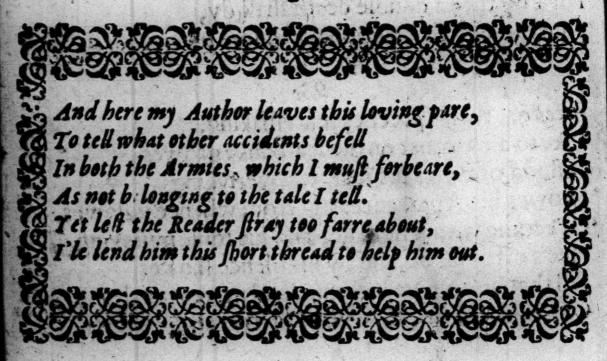
But after he his fault had fully showne,
And season'd his requests with bitter moane,
Bitter to him, but his repentance knowne,
More sweete to heathen Hybla's nectar growne,
The loving Spoule (forgetting faults fore-gone)
Beheld him with a calmer looke, like one
That sent a faithfull message from her heart
Which promis'd pardon, profer'd peace in part.

The Tragedie of

Here endeth the relation which Prince Theodore made to the Popes Nuntio: the rest of the story followeth, as I finde it reported by the Author, in other places.



2 Digreffion.



Heracho was besieg'd by Cosdras host,
Within his trenches, which the Emperor
Desended bravely to the Pigans cost,
Till one Gersan (a cunning Engener)
Devis'd a concav'd glasse, convect, imbost, vol and
And in the f shion of an hemisphere,
Which taking the sun beames within it's center; have
Return'd in fire, what but in light did enter.

This

e 10 e 11

A

This is a chariot closely he convei'd,
As neere the Christians camp as well he mought.
The Pagans (arm'd for all advantage) staid
To see what strange effect this Engin wrought.
It was no looner to the Sun displai'd,
But death and terror to the camp it brought,
And had consum'd them all, but for these twain,
As you may reade in this insuing Scene.

I finde in the Imperial historie, that this glasse was devised before the warres betwixt Cosdras and Heraclius, to set certain ships on fire in a haven; the truth I aver not, my Author I follow. This tale is discontinued from the 3. to the 23. booke, as appeares.



Lib.23: P. 407.

I

BOth camps had line encampt on severall hils, The one against the other divers daies, And neither of them both had any wils To leave the mountains for the plainer waies. Untill old Gersan (sire of arts and skils) Though broken now with years, yet other waies Of sounder judgement, and prosounder skill, Offred himself to be at Cosdris will.

Tois

2.

This man was noted from his very cralle,

To be of high conceit, and deep fore fight;

That could out-watch the Moon, and was as able

To make it breake of day before 'twas light,

Hang stones, thaire, as if the aire were stable,

Turn rivers backwards to their fountains right,

Count the Sunnes steps, and measure heaven in parts,

For sence and study help him in his arts.

3.

When Gersan was conducted to the King,
He found him musing in no little fret:
He meant to give th'assault; but then the thing
Which stai'd him, was, th' Empror hindred it.
If you my Lord (saies he) torbeare to bring
Your standard forward, never conquer'd yet,
Because you see Heraclio guards the place,
Or that you think it in too strong a case.

4.

I'le promise you, by noon to burn as faire
Within your enemies trenches, as a bow
Will shoot a shaft, or engine us'd in warre
Can cast a stone, I speake but what I know.
Courage, an easie passage needs no spurre;
A foe unarm'd will never burt his foe,
And I with fire from heaven will make you see
The place you think too strong, too weake for me.

Thus

Thus far he went: and Cofdra lending eare,
Made little doubt of what he heard him speake.
The camp arose before the day was cleare,
And march't away as soon as twas day-breake,
Descending down the hill a full carriere,
Approch't the Roman Camp, which was not weake,
The Pagan King had then so huge an hoast,
It fil'd the plains, and cover'd all the coast.

6.

The Sun was risen, and from both the camps
The shadowes through his golden raies shew d bright.
The armours, kindled by celestiall lamps,
Were reinflamed by a greater light.
The mooving steel seem d fields of corn, whose clamps
A southern wind had breath d upon in spight.
Helmets, targets, curaces, and the rest
Were but as straw, or eares of corn, at best.

7.

The rereward Cosdra, and the maine was led By stern Armallo, on a Thracian steed.
Pide white and black, and richly furnished, Moving undauntedly his losty head Above each squadron; for it might be said. There was no meaner man that with his crest. Could reach his shoulder, or above his brest.

C 2

8.

This Leader marcht in haste, and with him led
The ample Army which he did command,
As whole, as Ganges when she leaves her bed,
And fils the Ocean with her Asian land.
Or that proud River which doth over-spread
The sun-burnt Affrick, when it slowes the land,
And heavens defect with her full veines supplyes,
And makes the sea with her seven hornes to rise.

9.

The Watchfull Sentinels meane while descri'd The Persian Army which approacht them nye, And sirst the dust and then the men they spide, That in the clowd came marching silently, With this important newes they run and ride. Heraclio slept not when he heard the cry. Th' allarum given, the warlike trumpets sound, And through th'entrails of the camp resound,

IO.

The Emperor all armed fave his head,
Disposed quickly of his men at armes;
Causing troops of them to be assembled
Within the trench, to answer all alarms.
The right wing by himselfe was governed,
The left he left to Theodors commands.
And here with signs, and there with voyce did show
What might be helpfull, what might hurtfull grow.
The

II.

The Cavalrie upon the rampier stood
So fitly placed, that with fignes they might
Make show to them without, their hearts were good,
And courage serv'd them to a present fight:
What vantage death, what damage lyes in bloud,
What glory armes, what honour wounds requite.
They shake their shields, and slourish with their swords,
To shew the field is not a stage for words.

12.

But now behold (consuming all the plaine)
Th'assailant Army makes a close approach,
And they that on the fenced sconce remain,
Discern the Ensignes that so neer incroch:
From hence the Pagan, thence the Roman traine
With sierce aspects, and visage of reproch,
Before their swords or darts can come to light,
Do shoot at one another scorn and spight.

13.

Meane while Rubene brought his men by art
Up to the Romans trench, without prevention;
And Gersan carried on a four-wheel'd Cart
Amongst the souldiers, this his new invention,
So bound about, and covered every part,
That humane light was blinde to his intention.
Foure gentle horses black as pitch of hue
This siery chariot (soft and eas'ly) drue.

C3

14.

But when that engine was convei'd to ny't,
That now the Roman camp in danger lay,
Gersan stai'd his horses, to unty it:
The native light out-shin'd the lightsome day;
He turn'd it then against the Sun, to try it,
When in that light a fire was seen to play,
So kindled by the sunnes united beames,
As one great river made of many streames.

15.

The work is made of one great hollow glasse, Well leaded over on the outer side,
Into whose concave when the Sun doth passe,
His beames are fixt, and in one point abide,
Where all resections meet from every place,
And back again resect, with greater pride.
The rayes it gathers out again it sings;
Like one maine River from a thousand springs.

16.

This deadly glasse, the Suns united raies
Sends back again, with such an ardent ire,
That it inflames the aire, dryes up the waies,
Consumes the woods, and sets the fields on fire.
Now what can souldiers do in such a case?
Or who can sree them when they help require?
Weapons cannot, desence serves not the turn,
The fire slyes alwaics out, and all doth burn.

The

17.

The lightnings which the cruell glasse sends out, Strikes on the Romans as they lye in hold: And where it strikes, no Grecian is so stout, Or yet Italian, but his heart grows cold: The stames spare no man, so dispere t about: The trenches are grown empty to behold; The vally is so wasted with the stroke, That part in stames, and part remains in smoke.

18.

Cafar his tyred fouldiers doth persuade
To stop the currant of that raging sire:
Which quencht in one place, doth the rest invade,
As Gersan turns the glasse, or his desire;
Sometimes the men themselves his mark are made,
Sometimes the hand which brings the water nyer,
The very vessels (as each other thing)
Return with fire, though they the water bring.

19.

The Emperor like a Mariner of skill,
That guides a naked and diffressed ship
Through stormy seas, and winds that whis le shrill,
With broken ribs, and in a dropsie sit,
Yet stands it out, gainst windes and billowes still,
And in a case of death shrinks not a whit,
Or howsoe're with waves and crosse-winds tost,
Will never yeeld till life and all be lost.

C4

20.

So he to animate his weary men
Boldlythrough the thickest slames doth wade,
And makes the severall breaches up again,
Which in the rampiers side, the fire had made.
His souldiers (through suspition) look as when
A man is desperate or clean dismaid.
Both hope and fear have given their hearts one blow,
But this they cannot, that they will not know.

21.

Eliza sees the slames, and looking pale,
Creeps silently to her deare husbands side:
As in a sudden showr of rain or haile,
The loving Turtle useth to abide.
She clings to him, that death it self might faile
To part her life from his, or them divide.
The fire growes neer her, and from her faire brest.
She sends a sigh, and cals up on Alcest.

22.

My deare, the fatall hour is come (saies she)
Of our lives date: it troubles me the lesse
Since heav'n is pleas'd I should dye with thee,
Or rather in thy bosome, as I guesse;
I know our soules can never severed be,
And though our bodies suffer this distresse,
I hope that heat which kept them living, will
Preserve them after death united still.

23.

And reason'tis (since heaven hath preordain'd That we should meet in this extremity)
That they whose lives Loves-fire hath still maintain'd, Should dye by fire conjoyn'd as lovingly.
And happy we if this for us remain'd When we are dead. I hope it verily, That some sweet ayre will on our ashes blow, And mingling them in one, unite them so.

24.

The loving husband faine would have repli'd.
But forrow stopt his breath, he could not speake:
He forc't himselfe, but inward griefe deni'd.
All but a sigh, the rest was all too weake.
At last his face grew cleere, his tongue unti'd,
(As lightning on a clowd is seen to breake)
And turning to his faire and lovely Bride,
He kindely look't, and thus to her replide.

25.

Lend me thy bow, for I will thither goe,
Whence that old Sire confumes and burns so fast;
And taking equall distance for my blow,
Will with an arrow breake that fatall glasse,
I hope I shall return as quickly too;
But say I dye, whose life can better passe?
Who more contented? who with greater gaine?
When I may save thy life, by being stain?

The

26.

The Dam'sell answer'd him without delaies,
In gesture loving, mixt with some distaine.
When was my lite so deare to me? she saies,
What sign therof hath hitherto been tane?
That thou should'st thus desire to change thy daies,
For mine so vile, and so unworthy gaine.

Eliza is not, no, her heart can tell
Like other women, if thou mark'st her well.

27.

I speake it not to brag, but if 't be true
That I have selt a thousand deaths for thee,
In sour years space, when (farre without thy view)
In desert woods I sought my misery:
How can I now endure thou should'st pursue
An action of such danger, without me?
And shall not I, that (loath'd) have challeng'd thee,
(Spur'd on by Love) now beare thee company?

28.

Is this thy minde: and cannot all the proves—Given heretofore, when left I could affie,
Perswade thee that Eliza's one that loves,
But she must stay, and thou must goe and dye:
Alceste, this my onely glory proves,
That in the chains which our affections tye
The link wherein I am, is not so weake,
But first the knot of this my life will breake.

29.

But why delay we time? my bow and I
Will goe with thee: this expert hand doth know
A neerer way to'th marke, then thine can spie,
Strikes farther of, and gives a greater blow.
And well thou know'st, if Love have made me die
The field in bloud, if warlike yea or no;
To shew how much she dares, how little seares.
That in her bosome amorous fire beares.

30.

This faid, the stai'd, and when Alceste had
In vaine perswaded her to change her minde,
They both agreed; and (soon in armour clad)
The knight related what they had design'd.
The Emperor to heare it was right glad,
His royall armes about their necks he twin'd,
And said; Goe then, and let your fortunes be
Such as your vertues are, well known to me.

31.

And if reward may any vantage bring
To that defire which vertue doth incense,
(Vertue which seems to aske no other thing,
But takes it selfe alone for recompence)
Leave this enclosed ground, not tarrying
To hinder that, which gives us such offence:
For I will not be wanting unto you,
Either in honour or reward, I vow.

32.

They undertake the charge, and take their leaves,
With constant minds, and well-assured faces:
Whereat the Emperour good hope conceives,
And comforts them with Fatherly imbraces.
Their wide attempt a narrow passage craves,
(Delaies be dangerous in desprat cases.)
But now these vent rous wights their horses take,
And (mounted) streight the burning Sconce for sake.

33.

Vpon two coursers never liter were
Bred of the rases in Arabia;
That fire within them, snow without them beare,
Wings at their heeles whereon the wind doth play,
They issue forth; and short thin garments weare,
To shunne the fury of that glasses ray.
Prais'd and lamented of a thousand Knights,
Depart this generous paire of loving wights.

34.

Cleants staics to guard a secret way,
Whereby they may find safe retreat at need,
If adverse Fortune do not say them nay,
Or that their bold attempt should well succeed.
Their horses run as in a cloudy day,
A stash of lightning slyes, such is their speed;
Anon so ny the cruell glasse they grow,
Eliza tries to draw her horned bow.

35.

The string let-go resounds, and soundly sent
The winged shaft slies through the open aire,
The arrow singing all the way it went,
The cord still trembling, as it were for feare.
When lo, right as the skilfull Archer ment
The arrow lights, and breakes the glasse speare:
And as a torch that is in water drencht
The light extinguish'd, and the fire was quencht-

36.

The glasse thus broken, all the peeces sty
About the sield, and strew the dusty plaine.
Whereby the slames that did so damnisie
Became but idle practises and vaine.
This when the Christian souldiors saw that lie
Intrench't within the circle of the slame,
Their hopes revive, and they new courage take,
Defend themselves, and brave resistance make.

37.

The Pagan-hoast (enrag'd with this disgrace)

Flyes to revenge, and sets upon these twaine;

But faire Eliza quickly turnes her face,

To find her deare Alceste out againe.

Together towards their Camp they spur apase;

And happely they had not run in vaine,

But that Eliza's horse amidst his race,

Stumbled and fell, through roughnesse of the place.

With

The Tragedie of

38.

With that she crid, O stay not, husband sly,
O stay not, sly; what meanst thou thus to stay;
If thou escap's, the death is sweet I dy:
I am but lost, what good does this delay?
What folly is this? wilt thou thy valour try
Against a hundred troopes? art mad I say?
O sly: there is no more to think upon;
Let one suffice for both: O sly, be gon.

39.

But he (not used to yeeld to such invites.)
Makes haste to get betwixt them and his wife.
His horse he gallops, and his sword he gripes,
Resolv'd to dy except he sav'd her life.
He thought himselse against a thousand Knights
Of force sufficient, in so just a strife.
Thus arm'd and charm'd with love; he scorn'd to say
From her he lov'd, and leave her there to dy.

40.

So he with-stood a Camp, opposed them all, (By desperation over hardy made)
But over-laid at last was driven to fall:
Three mortall wounds he in his brest received.
But first his sword had made Armene spraule,
And Alternar upon the ground had laid,
Wounded Tarpantes arme, Ansirises brest,
And broke Falsirens helmet ore his Crest.

Meane.

Alcefte and Ellas.

41.

Meane-while Elizas horse gat up againe,
And she to find her husband sought about,
At last she spi'd him, wounded, wan, and faine,
Bleeding amongst a thousand speares a foot,
She thicker slings, with frenzy in ker braine.
And he that saw herup, did whathe mought
To repossesse his horse, and rise againe,
Now weake with losse of blood, and full of paine.

426

The loving wife forbeares not to expole
Her naked breft, against the piercing steele,
Shee thwarts the moopes and weapons of her foes,
And makes the know her strength, by what they steele,
But womans brest against such cruell blowes
Is found too slender and too weake a shield
She held it out, till one crosse blow by chance
Lit on her side, which open'd to the Launce.

43.

Th' inamored Eliza fals not yet,
But keepes her stirrops sirme whereon she stood,
Her new device with gold and jewells set
Was now enamel'd with a streame of blood.
Her presence in Alceste did beget
Strength to remount, and make his passage good.
They now together better hopes conceive
To scape by slight, then eist they thought to have.

But

TheTragedie of

44.

But from the left-hand wing to stop the way, (might, Which towards the bridge they tooke with all their Artasse brought his troopes in good array, And gat betwixt their Rampier and their slight. The wretched Lovers durst no longer stay, But made away, with all the speed they might: In slying yet there was some hope, though small, In staying there was sesse, or none at all.

45.

From plaine to hill, from hill to dale againe,
This loving couple up and downe do fling
Staining the ground with blood where re they straine,
And still pursu'd at heeles by 'th Pagas King:
At last a hard and crooked path they gaine,
That leades unto a wood, or desert spring,
So thicke with trees, and bushes overgrowne,
That there they lost them, how was never knowne.

He comes to this tale againe in the next booke, as you may fee by turning over this leafe.

Alcoste and Bliza.

3 Digression.

My Author, like a Keeper, walkes his round,
And hath the world (as he his parke) at will,
Viewes every nooke and corner of his ground,
Sees which are rascall, which are fit to kill:
And I, that serve but as his dry-foot Hownd,
Must not exceed my leame, but draw on still,
To find a brace of Deere ones broken out,
That Death the blood-hownd harries all about.

The Persian King beheld the glasse put-out, Which had anoy'd the Christian Camp so sore, And saw the Christians (thereupon growne stout) Desend themselves more bravely then before. With all his Hoast inclosing them about (Rage and revenge could not have acted more) Makes sièrce Armallo sirst assault their Wall, An unexpected sally frustrates all.

D

Meane-

I.

Meane-while Eliza and her deare Alcest
Gallop their horses up and downe the woods,
Exceeding weake, and faint for lacke of rest,
Bedewing all their passage with their bloods,
And with their wounds still more and more opprest,
(Although Elizas were the lesser floods)
Opprest in-deed for now the weary Knight
Began to languish, and to dy outright.

2.

And spent and weake, his face like frozen snow,
With trembling voyce, and sounding somewhat low
He raignes his horse, to make him go more slow,
And cries, stay wife, I can me farther go,
My paine to such extreamity doth grow,
I teele my selfe consume with bleeding so;
Thus languishing and tir'd at length he tri'de
To light, and rest his ill affected side.

3.

And underneath a shrub he sits him downe,
And leanes his armed head upon a stone,
His shield (an idle burthen) from him thrown,
His arme too weake to beare it now is grown;
The woman that had slackt her pase, estsoone,
(Strucke to the heart to heare his dying tone)
Leapes from her horse, and runs to him ama ne,
More sencelesse of her owne, then of his paine.

Alcelle and Eliza?

The wound the had upon her tenderside,
Which troubled her till then, she feeles no more
Such strange effects in love are often tride,
As fire within and marble trozeno're.
T'was not her owne (for that she qualifi'd)
They were her husbands wounds she felt so fore:
Rather for him she felt the greater anguish.
That he in body, she in soule did languish.

.8.

And when the law him dying and his eyes
Already vail d, his spirits all decay
And nothing left him but a calc of Ice,
She knew not what to do, or what to fay it.
She invocates the earth, to heaven the cries,
She neither hides her griefey nor it bewraies,
She weepes, forbeares, curies, complaines, and praies.

0

She runs to call some helpe, the knowes not whom, Heards-man or Shepheard, but she knowes not where, Returnes the way she went, and all-alone (Like one distract) she wanders here and there. The woods alone, that heare her make her moane Can lend no comfort, though they lend an eare: Their boughes are filent, silent are their leaves. The aire no answere to her sorrow gives.

D 2

At-

.7

At last she backe returnes, and doth unclasp The sturdy Helmet from his frozen head, And laies it gently in her hollow lap, Vpon a pillow of her garments spread: Then stoop't to kisse it, when it was her hap To kisse those lippes that were already dead; And now shoe's faine to take a kisse by stealth, Which he was wont to give her of himselfe.

8.

With that her cheekes benerled with her teares, (Like damaske Roses with a mornings Ice.)
She leaves him lying, to disgorge her cares (Fixing mean-while her faire eyes on the skies.)
Alas, (quoth she) and were not all their speares Able to pierce this brest that naked lies?
Can nothing kill me, that naked lies?
And must Alceste dy, that's armed so?

9.

Base steele, it was thy treason lost Alcest,
What strokes are those that use to harden thee,
If (when with blowes thy temper should prove best)
Thou changest nature, and becomest free:
Alas, this single garment sav'd my brest,
That sturdy armour would not safe-guard thee:
For thee I shall accompt all steele as glasse,
And he that trusts in armour, but an asse.

10.

Betraid by it, from me thou do'ft depart,
And where alas, where (cruell leav'ft thou me?)
Diftrest, alone, in such an uncount part,
As nought but trees, and stones there are to see.
Or what availes that free'd from fire thou west,
Since to thy death thou ran'st as speedily?
And carrying death along with thee for hire,
Mett'st with the sword, where thou escap'st the fire.

II.

Ay-mee, thou dyest; hath then Elizas sate
Kept her alive to see this misery?
Why was her life preserved at sea alate;
Was that too faire a death for her to dy?
And must her husband in this dolefull state,
First dy within her armes, sans remedy?
And she that neither fire nor sword can kill,
Must she live griefs mortall monster still?

12.

It shall not be. And in that desperat plight
Vato her deare Alcestes sword she slies,
She sets the point against her lest side right,
Where to the heart the readiest passage lies.
But now it chanc't, the pale discoulered Knight
(Before his wife fell on his sword) revives:
He strives to speake, at last brings out her name,
And praies her (dying) to sorbeare the same.

 D_3

Where-

13.01

Whether it were, that as a candle showes

A little blase, before it go quite out,
His light now ready to extinguish rose
To some more show, then formerly it mought;
Or that of wonders, this is one of those
That Love alone (as soveraigne) brings about,
And he that can do all, and none does more,
Thus made his last words heard, not heard before.

14.

In thy faire bosome now our loves must dwell;
Remember thou hast often said to me
Thy heart was mine; for my sake use it well.
And I (if heaven permit it so to be)
And that those powers do not my suite repell
Do promise (for thy comfort) to love thee,
As much as (after death) thou canst do me.

15.

But first I looke, that thou should'st living show.
The like to me, that so I may depart
The more content. And here (as wind doth blow
A candle out) a chilnesse seis'd each part:
His hand and arme (lift up) so feeble grow
They fall like lead, upon his fainting heart.

Eliza sees it: and with drowned eyes
In sloods of teares, to him she thus replyes.

Thou

16.0

Thou bidst me live. I must not disobey,
(If he forbid it not that is of power)
I then of Fortune and of Love will stay
To be the fatall marke, now griefe no more.
And whilst she weeping stood, and thus did say,
He look't more cheerefull, then he did before.
But heaving up his heavy eyes towards heaven,
His soule forsooke him, and the stroke was given.

17.

Now when she saw him perfect earth appeare (Because on earth she ne're should see him more) She rent her face, and tore her golden haire, Her guiltlesse eyes the badge of sury bore. And so excessive was her griefe and seare, Her heart could not containe it as before; Her soule burst out, and lest her so awhile, To shew how death can any paine beguile.

18.

The Sun mean-while into the sea was got,
And silent night had darkned all the cost,
Yet still her swouning held, and left her not,
Thus had Eliza all her seaces lost.
When lo, an ugly, old, ill-favour'd Trot,
With gastly lookes, and locks about her tost,
Came slying thither on a winged Goat:
The aire (devided) gave a fearefull noat.
D 4

This

19.

This Beldame chiefe at every wanton match,
Gads Moon by moon, at dreadfull time of night,
And is prefer'd at each lascivious watch,
For doing that wherein the worst delight.
And when fate shall the loathsome life dispatch
Of that proud tyrant, prone to all despight,
She hopes, with thousand other witches fell,
To make her selfe (one day) the Queen of hell.

20.

Altea she is call'd, who with soule jawes,
Comes from Avernus to disturb our rest.
Each minister of hels infernall lawes
Not only answers, but obeys her hest.
This woman bore Armene, on the waves
Of Thessalie, & nurst him at her brest,
He whom Alceste kild, as he did passe
In so much haste, to breake the fatall glasse.

21.

In which respect, inflam'd with deep disdain,
The angry mother nightly runs about
To be reveng'd on him that had him slain,
And gall and woormwood from her eyes doth shoot:
And now she comes to seek him, but in vaine,
She sindes him dead before her spight breakes out.
And like a Kite that thinks he spies his prey,
Returns unsed, and cryes, such is her stay.

And

22.

And thus unto her self. Though death forbid
That I should wreck me where I most defire,
It shall not hinder me, that in his stead
This woman seele the rigour of mine ire:
And my designs shall so far forth proceed,
To interrupt his peace in heavens high quire,
Whilst from above, with anguish he shall see
Her that he loves so dearly, plagu'd by me.

23€

This said, Altes with disheveled haire
In hideous manner scatter'd to the wind,
First shakes her rod, wherewith she keeps in scare,
The furies that have heads with Adders twind,
Then strikes the ground, and by their names doth reare
Th'insernall spirits up, to harm enclin'd.
When loe, at iteration of her divellish charm,
The uncleane squadron quickly thither swarm.

24.

Th' implacable Megera hasts to tell
What she would have them do at her request:
Nay, she commands the damned crue of hell
To take possession of Eliza's brest:
And as within their own Tartarian cell,
This wicked rabble there take up their nest.
Committing (like unhospitable guesse)
On her faire body, outrage and excesse.

This

The Tungedy of

25.

This done, th'inhabitants of darke Avern Cry out, exclaim, and threaten all at once. She with her cudgell conjur'd up the stern And lasie hell-hounds from their restlesse rest, Tillall the kennell were driven out, and yern To dominere within her tender brest. And then she mounted on her Goat againe, Swifter then any of the winged traine.

26:

When she departed thence, the night did mourne In blackest houres, farthest from the day, Equally distant to the lights return, As to the time wherein it went away. And now the Damsell underneath the thorn (That in a swoune by her lost-lover lay) Revives; but not as erst, for now she bid More pain and woe, then ever woman did.

37

She feeles a filent horrour overflow
Her breft, yet knowes not what the cause should be.
She little thinks her alterations grow
From divels, which torter her so cruelly;
Meane while those spirits all their poyson blow
Into her organs: and they make her see
(Or rather think she sees, such are her searces)
Both Lyons, Panthers, Tygers, Woolses, and Beares.
Twas

28.

'I was midnight then, and heaven as dark as pitch,
No Moon appear'd, nor could one see or heare
Ought in that desert place to stir or quitch,
So mute the world was, and so dark the sphere:
And yet the power was such of that damn'd Witch,
(What with transparent poyson and such geare)
That this poor damsell did both heare and see,
And when 'twas midnight, thought it noon to be.

39.

She turn'd about, and saw a sudden fire
Rise in a medow out of broken stones:
And by that kindling, (which was soon grown higher)
A winde to rise from out their slinty bones:
It blew amaine, and that breath did inspire
A slame, which up to heaven did clime at once,
And in that slame deceased mortals cast,
By those infernall ghosts, we spake of last.

30.

And when those divels had gather'd up as fast
The ashes of their burned sless againe,
They sprinkled them with teares, and made a paste,
Wherewith they shap't anew the bodies slaine;
Which reincarnate and patch't up in haste,
Consume afresh in never dying paine.
The slames doe bellow, and the horrid sound
Of Ghosts tormented endlessly resound.

Now

31.

Now whil' A Eliza this strange torment ey'd,
A cold ran to her heart through every veine,
A crue of hell-hounds ready there she spy'd,
To drag her husband to that scorching stame;
The wretched knight exclaim'd, complain'd and cry'd
Vpon Eliza, and her Love did blame,
But she that saw him thus, (in spight of hell)
Would not abandon him she lov'd so well.

33.

Till feare at last so much possess her brain,
That (cold and trembling like a lease i'th winde)
She was no longer able to refrain
Her fearfull foot, but more as frighted minde.
She runs away, and heares Alceste plaine,
Speaking, and groning, at her back behind.
He cals upon her, and intreats her back,
And makes her challenge that she loves him nat.

33.

And thereupon she stayes, as frighted fore,
And seeles her heart still stricken with the sound,
She hardly breathes; yet running more and more,
Flyes from that sad report, which now she sound
More fear'd in death, then deer in life before:
The noyse afflicts her still with sierce resound,
And still she runs to finde a sater place,
Through thickest woods, that rend her haire and sace.
O're

34.

O're highest mountains, and the broken horns
Of steepest rocks, and craggy cliffes she strayes,
And where 'tis overgrown with bush and thornes,
There findes she out impenitrable wayes:
And yet the fearfull noyse where ere she turnes,
Pursues her still atheels, and never stayes.
She looks with eyes distorted, gastly sierce,
Neither in colour nor in shape as erst.

35.

She speakes in divers tongues, and doth at full Pronounce each Countries accents though remote, Neighs like a Horse, and bellowes like a Bull, Bleats like a Sheep, and stammers like a Goat, Of many sounds makes one confus d and dull, The Adders hissing, and the Panthers note, The woolfs hoarse howling, and the whist ling sound Of hollow vaults and crannics under-ground.

36.

The poor soule flyes, and strikes her weary brest, Her ivory palms she beats and wrings for wee, She teares her haire; and gives her cheeks no rest, That to a palenesse turn their untoucht snow, A thick deep panting shakes her sides, oppress With violence of her heart, that strikes them so. Now whil'st this torment lasts, the liquid night Gives way unto the daies succeeding light.

And

The Tragedie of

37.

And the her lad lights turning towards the East, And viewing there the new approching Sun, Suppos'd a fire to rife from out the dust, Which burning every mortall thing did run: With that she ran more eagerly then erst, And call'd with her each thing, the fire to shun. Away ye groves (she cryes) ye fields away, The fire will catch you if you longer stay.

38.

And at an instant with her tender hands
(O wondrous force of power demoniack!)
She pluckt up ancient trees, like little wands,
Stript off their boughs, and made their bodies crack,
The wood gives way on heaps, and quaking stands,
Where that infernall fury drives it back.
An angry eastern wind did never blow
To waste a Forrest, or consume it so.

39.

But when those lothsome fiends themselves withdrew, And gave a little respit to her slight;
And that her eyes had lost their bloudy hue, Her haire grown smooth that stood before upright;
She rightly found from whence her error grew;
She sees but Firres and Mirtels in her sight;
Ther's no Alceste now; she heares no cryes;
The fire is quencht; and Phabus mounts the skies.

Wher-

40.

Whereby (poor thing) she well perceiv'd at last That she with unclean spirits was possest. And that their sury carried her so fast O re hils and dales, without one minutes rest. Frozen and dumb, amazed, and agast, She mus'd a while; and then with griese oppress, Fixing on heaven her sad and watry eyes, She cals on God in this most humble wife.

41.

O God! if for her sinnes Eliza still
Must be tormented with such cruelty,
That neither wounds nor griefe will serve to kill,
(Because no death should end her inisery)
Defend her yet, (if t be thy blessed will)
That she may shew therein her constancy.
And that no power infernall may prevaile,
To tyrannize her soule, though weake and fraile.

13.

Tis true my soule hath err'd; for so great love Should not be plac'd in sensuality. And so it err'd, the soolishly it strove To leave its native seat, as desperately. But who can moderate, much lesse remove The fire that in a Lovers heart doth lye? O let thy mercies, and my slender faith Purchase forgivenesse at thy hands, she saith.

And

The Tragedie of

43.

And then proceeds, teares running downe her face.

O what a mischiese am I brought unto

By cruell fate: that (though it be my case

By death and love to be afflicted so)

When Land and Sealacks torment and disgrace,

Sorrow and losse, for me to undergoe,

(The world being weary of tormenting me)

Hell should rise up to work my misery.

44.

With faying this, her one and other star
Declining towards the ground, and weeping too,
Are now made fairer by her forrowes far,
And sorrow lovely by her weeping so.
And I would say heavens rebels ceast their war
For this short time, more then they use to do,
In pitty of those teares: but that I know
Hell hath no mercy, divels no pitty show.

45.

But those fell spirits and unjust, meane while Deny the comfort of their short delay, And now return to give her new turmoyle, Leaving her rest but little time of stay: Her voyce is chang'd, her colour doth recoyle, She howles and bawles, like any dog at bay; And here and there she runs, with sury press; Cryes madly out; and strikes her guildesse brest.

46.

Tis strange I tell you: sometimes she will rise Above the earth; and as some sowles are sound Of swifter wing then others, so she slies, And to the tops of highest trees doth bound; And sometimes like a wrighing snake she lies Trailing her brest alongst the mossie ground, This way and that way, up and downe she straies, And comes and goes the very selfesame waits.

47.

At length return d from wandring to and fro,
Where late before the left Alceste dead,
It feems to her (the infernall furies to
Abuse her senses, and her light mislead)
A monstrous Boare, with bristles fierce in show,
Too neerly lodg d, she thought too deerly fed.
And she that never laid her bow aside,
Now thought it long, untill her skill were tride.

And all her arrowes she had quickly sent
To wait upon her metamorphos'd Lord:
Which (as before his death, her aime was bent
Still at his heart) slew thither from the cord.
Happy Alceste that he did prevent
This sight, by dying on anothers sword:
At least to see that he had scap't the hell,
To have her murther him, he lov'd so well.

E

Now

Lib. 24: pag. 485.

49.

Now whilst this folly rambled in her brains, Certain old Shepheards chanc't to come that way, (Driving their slocks to pasture on the plains) Who spide her madnesse, where her husband lay, And (with their borns assembling other Swaines) Sought all they could her frantick course to stay: They held her fast, and then with tender twigs First bound her hands, and after that her legs.

50.

And causing her together with her knights.

To be conveid for buriall to their cote,

Performing every part of humane right,

And not omitting any thing of note.

They laid his body under marble white,

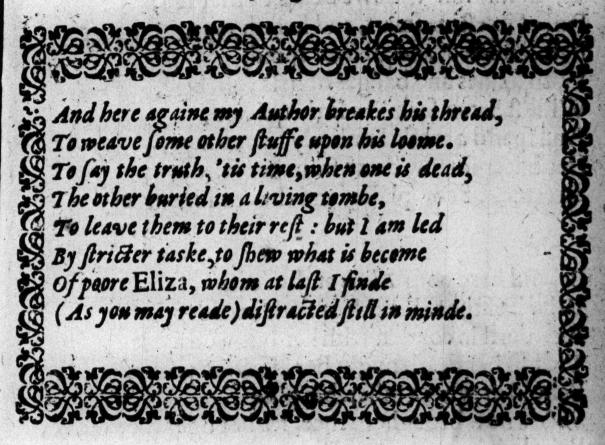
Though not so rich and smooth, yet cleanly wrought:

And o're his tombe a noble trophy dight,

Of Arms hang'd up unto that warlike wight.

He comes to this tale againe in the 28 booke as you may see in the following leafe.

4 Digression.



Lib.28. p. 567.

The honest shepheards that in marble pure Had caus'd Ascesse to be buried, Now taking care of faire Eliza's cure; (Still with toule spirits vext and wearied) That her disease (which was not very sure By mortall hand) might be recovered: Unto the like of Sarb brought her bound, Where they the holy man Niceso sound.

24

The mournfull widowe being thither led,
Full of intestine smart, and hellish rage,
Pale, afflicted, and all over spred,
With staines and badges of hels vassalage,
Whil'st Satan seem'd a little quieted,
And spar'd a while her body to out-rage,
Her bitter sorrow drew from her faire eyes
Streames of complaint, and thus to him she cryes.

3-

Behold here poor Eliza at thy feet,
Who had the title both of faith and love,
And durst in combat with her husband meet
That so her death might her affection prove,
Behold in what a miserable plite
Shee's now brought to thee, let her sight thee move;
Behold her made (by this impetuous storm)
Of love and fortune now the very scorn.

4.

To thee I come, befeeching thee (if ever Mortals forrow mov'd thee to compassion) To cure my soule of this intestine fever Of extreame torment, and infernall passion. Or shew at least how I by death may sever My life and griefe, in any honest fashion: For better 'twere, at once, to feele deaths power, Then thus to dye a thouland times an houre.

And

5.

And here the faire and comfortlesse lets fall Her teares in greater plenty from her eyes; Which seeme as fountains overflowing all, So fast they gush, so full their streams arise. Her extreame weeping doth Niceto call To take compassion of her miseries. He comforts her: and (to prepare her faith For heavenly graces) thus unto her saith.

6.

Superfluous love (my daughter) is a fault,
And dotage our Creator much offends,
Because the creature enters by default
On that which is his due, and it mispends.
No mervaile then if (in this lower vault)
We feele his hand, when his just wrath descends,
Whil'st we in earth, love any mortall thing,
With that high love, belongs to heavens high King.

7.

And thou that had'ft the bloudy minde to kill
Thy self with thine own hands, so desperately,
(Because thy husband dy'd against thy will,
And that thou lov'd him so immoderately)
Deserv'st no favour, but that all this ill
For penance of thy fault, should light on thee.
The knife and fire (thou know'st) must then be us'd,
When juyce of hearbs and liquors are refus'd.

E 3

The

8.

The guilty widow heard (with humble show)
All that he said, and list ned unto it,
And falling downe before the Hermit low
Confest, and forrow'd for her love-sicke sit.
Renounc't the pleasures that bewitcht her so,
And curst the fancies that bereft her wit.
Each error she so sorrow'd, and lamented,
As never any sorrow'd or repented.

9.

Niceso lifting up his facred hands,
Untyde her foule, and that (unbound) adreft
(More lovely faire then ever 'twas in bands)
To God, that he would grant her fad request.
But now againe began those hellish brands
To move afresh, and muster in her brest.
She changes gesture, colour, shape, and speech,
Distorts her eyes, and gnasheth with her teeth.

10.

Whereat Gods servant (after he had sent
His winged praiers to the King of heaven)
His pitty on the woman wholy bent,
That hell to such extremity had driven.
And calling on the name omnipotent,
Which makes each Ghost to tremble in Avern,
He breathes cleere light, and utters purest fire,
In thundring notes his conjuring words aspire.

II.

By that great God that governs heaven, and raigns;
By that great love that nail'd him to the Croffe;
By that great pain wherewith he heal'd the pains
Of those lost sheep, that else had suffer'd losse;
By that great power which measures and restraines
Each living thing to the Tartarian Foss;
By that great Lord, whose all-supernall might
Laies chains on hell, and governs heaven aright.

12.

By him I charge you, uncleane spirits heare,
Heare wicked angels what I say to you,
Depart I say from out those members faire,
And get you to your lothsome vaulted stow.
Come out you unclean beasts, that place forbeare,
Come out (I say) you harmfull monsters now.
Iesus, sweet Iesus, Iesus rich in power,
Command this cursed legion out this hour.

13.

These heavenly words no sooner passage found,
But faire Eliza fell, as fals a Corse
That livelesse strikes upon the senselesse ground,
Her fall reviv'd our hopes, awak't remorse:
Her heart lest beating, all her veins were drown'd,
A violent oppilation stopt their sourse,
Whereby her life now out now in didenter
And made the circle move from out it's center.

And

14.

And at that fall, (as boystrous windes still do When from their empty and resounding iayle, The high-Commander, lets his bridle go, Which staies the fury of their blustring gale, Rush headlong out, and whistle where they blow, The East, the West, the North, and South, none faile, And in a sierce and searcfull skirmish make The earth to totter, and the heaven to shake)

15.

Even so those spirits (made perforce to pack)

Left poore Eliza in a deadly slumber:

The Island trembled, and the aire grew black,

The cloudes were broken with unholsome thunder;

They light upon an old obdurat oake,

And at an instant teare it all asunder:

The boughes and branches in such shivers sly,

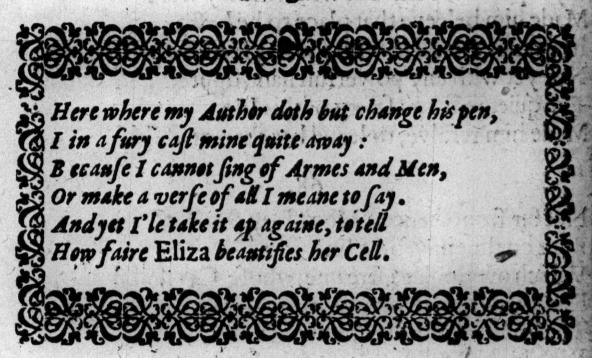
They strew the ground, and darken all the sky.

16.

At last the earth-quake endes; and round about The cloudes disperse; and with them all our care; The sky growes cleere; and all that beastly rout Are loose and gone; no longer groanes the aire; And now the poore young Woman looking out Recovers life, she breathes and sighs for feare. Her soule returnes unto it's wonted cure, It gathers strength, but yet is scarce secure.

He comes to this againe, in the 583. pag. of the same booke, as you may see heare following.

5 Digreffion.



Lib.28. p. 583.

66.

When good Niceto had Eliza blest,
And given due thanks for that exceeding grace,
He left the Isle. But first he thought it best
To settell her in some convenient place,
Where she mought live hereafter more at rest,
And sing his praises that had heard her case:
At whose great name, she saw good reason now,
That every knee in Heaven and Earth should bow.

67.

He mought have studi'd long, and travell'd far,
To find her out a fitter place of rest.
The aptnesse of the Isle wherein they were
Made him beleeve that place to be best;
It was not troubled with the noyse of war,
Nor yet with any powerfull hand oppress:
The quietnesse and safety of this Isle,
Made him resolve, to leave her there awhile.

68.

Not far from thence a Monastery stood,
Built on the rising of a little hill,
Which overlook't a streame, whose Crystall stood
Ran ever from it, yet was with it still,
The building not so curious, as good,
Rich in the Meddowes, and the landnot ill.
A neat-built Chappell, and a spacious Hall,
Were all the roomes of note, the rest were small.

69.

A more retired place for contemplation,
Plenty, or case, was no where to be found.
Yet wanted it no honest recreation,
As Orchards set with trees, and alli'd round,
A Garden, both for use, and delectation,
More like an Eden, then a common ground.
A Dormitory, plac't so well by art,
That every Sister had her Cell apart.

70.

Thither the man-of-God convei'd his guest,
Who of a Souldier now a Nunne would prove,
(Craving the sacred vaile amongst the rest)
By vow a Recluse never to remove.
Where long time after, she her selfe express
Hand-maid to God, as she had beene to Love.
Till of her mortall vaile by death bereavn
She re-enjoy'd her faithfull Love in Heavens

FIXIS.

By this time, I suppose the Reader's glad
As well as I, this Tale is at an end:
A Tragedy well told will make one sad;
Then, how much more when t'is so poorely pen'd?
The lines be true, although the rimes bee bad,
Let that suffice thee, as thou art my Friend.
Tis one thing to go bound, another free;
Try it thy selfe, and thou wilt be are with mee.



Alcelletralities

T Aconia. Peloponness Regio : nunc Morea.

Cythera. Insula contra Cretam, nunc Gandiam. 5.
millibus a Malea prom: distans, veneris numini Dedicata.

Cosdras vel Cosraes, Persarum Rex: Anno Salutis 534.

His Tyrannus nonaginta millia Christianorum interfesit;

copartem crucis dominica secum asportanit. Pius 2. Pontif.

Heraclius. Romanorum Imperator : qui contra Cofroem

bellam per quatuor decim annos continue gerebat.

Earthago: vrbs Apbica-totius celeberima, Romaniqua Imperii aliquando amula à Didone condita.

Asopis. Regiuncula Peloponnensi, in tractu Acaia ab Aso-

o fluvio cui iac et.

Asopus. Fluvius Poloponnensi, in Chronio monte nascens in

frum Corinthiacum influens.

Malea. Promontorium Liconia. a Maleo Argivorum Rege dicta; qui in ea Templum construxit, quod Maleaticum apellavit.

Partha. Asia regio: buius incola Parthi dicuntur. hi ar-

afferebant.

Persia. Regio orientalis in Asia: cuius Imperium uti olim celebr. sic etiam hodie maxime clarum est: amplissimas que regiones Comprehendit; a Sophis Persia Regibus possideArabia. Regio Asia majoris inter Indaam & Agyptum.
Thessalia. Regio Grecia: ad mare inter Peneum amnens
& montem Thermopylas extensa.

Tartara. Locus profundissimus inferorum, in que sentes

plectuntur.

Avernus. Lacus Campania, prope Baias, quem Plutoni dicatum & inferorum limen esse rudis vetustas credidit. Capitur plerunque pro ipso inferorum loco, vel propter fatorem vel propter necromanciam qua ibi exercebatur:

Asia, una ex quatuer partibus erbu terrarum. Divita be-

die in quinque partes, secundum ejus Imperia.

Aphrica vel Africa. Tertia pars orbis que freto Herculeo a Nilo ceterisque orbis partibus deducitur. ab Aphro dicta, uno exposteris Abraba. Libya & Hysperia à Grecis dicta.

Thracia. Latissima Europa Regio, Macedonia adoccasum proxima, ita dicta à Thrace, Martis silio; aut à Regionis

asperitate.

Ganges. Indice fluvius maximus, qui universam secat la diam, secum aureas arenas trahens. a Gange Æthiopuns Rege dictus.

Eden. Orientalis regio. 154.37. 4 Reg. 19. Lat. woluptar,

sive delicia.

FINIS.

Imprimatur.

SA: BAKER. Feb. 18. 1638.

22 JY 69

